

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
EXECUTIVE BOARD  
OF THE  
FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION

OF PHILADELPHIA AND ITS VICINITY.

FOR THE  
RELIEF OF COLORED FREEDMEN,

Read at the Annual Meeting of the Contributors, held at Arch Street Meeting-house,

PHILADELPHIA, 4TH MONTH 16TH, 1866.

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PHILADELPHIA :  
RINGWALT & BROWN, PRS., 111 & 113 SOUTH FOURTH ST.  
1866.

At the annual meeting of the Association of Friends of Philadelphia and its vicinity, for the relief of Colored Freedmen, held 4th month 16th, 1866.

The report of the Executive Board, exhibiting their proceedings during the past year, was read. The exposition of the various modes in which the wants of the Freedmen have been ascertained, and so far as was within the means at command, in good measure supplied or relieved, was satisfactory and encouraging. The Association earnestly desires that the Board now to be appointed, may continue the good work with unflagging zeal, and make prompt use of the means furnished them to alleviate suffering, encourage industry, and extend the benefits of education among these, our colored fellow citizens. They are also requested to have the annual report printed, together with such other matter as they may deem suitable to promote the cause in which we are engaged. The Treasurer's Report was read, showing a balance in his hands on the 13th inst., of \$11,524.87.

The Committee appointed at the last annual meeting, to nominate to this, Friends to fill the different offices in the Association, proposed the following, which were approved and appointed to the respective stations, viz. :

*President*—SAMUEL HILLES.

*Secretary*—CHARLES EVANS.

*Treasurer*—RICHARD CADBURY.

*Executive Board*—Samuel R. Shipley, John B. Garrett, Marmaduke C. Cope, Anthony M. Kimber, Philip C. Garrett, Benjamin Coates, William Evans, Jr., James Whitall, Elliston P. Morris, J. Wistar Evans, John W. Cadbury, Joel Cadbury, Jr., David Scull, Jr., Caleb Wood, James E. Rhoads, Yardley Warner, Thomas Conard, Samuel Morris, Coleman L. Nicholson, Thomas Elkinton.

The following named friends are appointed to bring forward to our next annual meeting, the names of Friends to serve in the respective offices of the Association, viz : Samuel Hilles, Samuel R. Shipley, William L. Edwards, Samuel Bettle, James Whitall, John B. Garrett and Francis R. Cope.

# REPORT.

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*To the Friends' Association of Philadelphia and its vicinity, for the Relief of Colored Freedmen.*

The EXECUTIVE BOARD Reports:

That they have to acknowledge a continuation of the sympathy and support from Friends, both of this country and of Great Britain, which so remarkably characterizes the previous history of this Association.

Referring to the account of the Treasurer, submitted herewith, for details of receipts and expenditures, we report during the year contributions to the amount of \$53,718.07, of which \$34,056.60 was from Friends and others in this country, and \$19,661.47 from Great Britain.

The expenditures have been \$59,249.19, and there is a balance remaining in the hands of the Treasurer of \$11,524.87. The total contributions from the first being \$171,771.25.

It is gratifying to be able to state, that notwithstanding the large calls upon us for funds, the Board has at no time been embarrassed for want of means; we have not felt obliged to refuse any proper application for assistance, but have largely extended our operations.

During the first few months succeeding the last Annual Meeting, the warm weather relieved us from the necessity of furnishing clothing to any considerable extent, but as Autumn approached, undoubted information was obtained, that from various causes great destitution would prevail, while at the same time there was reason to believe that the means of relief would be lessened. As a largely increased attention to instruction was also contemplated, the Board, in the 11th month, invited the contributors and others interested, to meet with and advise us as to the best way of renewing the contributions. With the assistance of a Committee appointed by that meeting, Friends in each Monthly Meeting were selected, to aid in laying the subject before their members, and an appeal was prepared and circulated. The Board had previously distributed among the contributors and others, about 4,500 copies of the last Annual Report; eight numbers of the Freedmen's Friend, of about 4,000 copies each, have also been published and circulated. The information thus widely distributed has been of much benefit in keeping up the interest of Friends in the cause, and, there is reason to believe, has given great satisfaction.

In the 11th month the room at Fifth and Cherry was re-opened, and the stock of clothing on hand having been much reduced, by early calls and shipments to distant points, the manufacture was commenced. Twelve thousand and thirty-six garments, mostly for women and children, have been cut out, a portion of which have been sent unmade to our teachers and others having Industrial Schools; the remainder have been made up gratuitously.

There have been distributed as follows :

	Piece Goods, yds.	Garments.	Blankets, pairs.	Shoes.
District of Columbia,	2,618	1,960	176	591
Virginia, chiefly	} 2,973	12,968	478	591
Richmond, Petersburg,				
Yorktown, Danville,				
Charleston, S. C.,	} 702	21,673	2,430	461
Newbern, Wilmington,				
Roanoke Island,				
Greensboro and Raleigh, N. C.,	} 104	5,413	700	120
Atlanta, Ga.,				
Mobile, Ala.,				
Helena, Ark., &c., &c.,				

In all

6,397 yds. goods in the piece.  
 42,014 articles of Clothing.  
 3,784 pairs Blankets.  
 1,394 pairs Shoes.

Supplies of material and trimmings have been furnished to Industrial Schools at Washington, Petersburg and elsewhere. Articles of food and medicine have also been sent to some hospitals where the provision was unsuitable for the sick, and authority has been given, in some cases, to purchase wood, and other articles of necessity, to a limited extent, during the severe weather of last winter.

Many evidences have been furnished the Board, not only that these supplies have been timely and useful, but that in a number of cases lives have been saved, and great suffering spared. We have been favored to find faithful and efficient agents to superintend the distribution, and in most cases interesting reports have been furnished.

Great interest in this branch of the work has been manifested in England. During the year clothing and blankets valued at about twenty-seven thousand dollars have been received, and as the articles were

well adapted to the purpose, they have proved a valuable addition to our resources.

The unsettled condition of the whole Southern country, the vague ideas of freedom entertained by many of the late slaves, and the anticipated changes in the tenure by which property was held, and consequent uncertainty as to the ownership of the crops, prevented the Board from making extended efforts towards the settlement and cultivation of lands. We have not, however, been unmindful of the importance of encouraging, as much as possible, habits of labor and self-dependence. In addition to the aid extended to Industrial Schools already alluded to, which have formed, during the past winter, an important part of the labors of many of the Agents of this and other similar societies, we have, by the distribution of seeds, tools and animals, by instruction in basket making, &c., and by the counsel and example of skilled farmers, endeavored to inculcate ideas of thrift, as far as possible. A contribution of five hundred dollars in money, and several casks of hoes and other agricultural implements, was made to an Association in New Orleans, we believe to good advantage. Money was also advanced to deserving persons, to assist them in locating on small lots of ground.

In Greensboro, North Carolina, a tract of ground bought for school purposes contains about 34 acres, eligibly situated, most of which has either been sold or leased in small lots to the better class of freedmen. From present indications, it would seem that a large field is open in this direction for important assistance. Tracts of land, and lots in or near the cities, can now be bought at a low price, and temporary aid of this

kind may prove a lasting benefit. We commend this subject to the careful attention of the new Board, and to the notice of interested friends.

In the 9th month, owing to the removal of all restrictions upon trade, the Board felt that our duty in regard to stores was accomplished, and therefore directed the one remaining at Yorktown to be closed, as early as was consistent with a judicious settlement of the business. We have now to report that this has been done; the amount borrowed as capital, together with one thousand dollars advanced out of the funds of the Association, has been returned, and a balance of two thousand six hundred and sixty-five dollars and fifty cents (\$2,665.50) in cash, and property valued at six hundred dollars, have been transferred to the general fund.

The following is a summary of this interesting concern :

	Opened.	Closed.	Sales.
Hampton Store,	5 mo. 4, 1864.	4 mo., 1865.	\$89,019 96
Yorktown Store,	6 mo. 9, 1864.	10 mo., 1865.	127,555 61
Total sales, \$216,575.51. Expenses, \$12,397.54.			
Net surplus, or profit in both stores, \$3,265.50.			

Although fully expressed last year, we cannot, in making this final report, refrain from renewing the expression of our conviction that great benefits have been conferred upon the residents of the neighborhoods where these stores were located.

During a portion of the time, that at Yorktown was the sole dependence of a large population for food. The actual saving in money to the freedmen, we think is underrated at one-fourth of the amount of the sales, or over fifty thousand dollars; while the examples of order and honorable dealing set them by our employees, must have been of great value. It is cause

of thankfulness that we have been able to conduct this important business to a successful termination.

Exposed to more than ordinary risks, subject to loss from guerillas, fire, and a dangerous water transportation, besides the vicissitudes of a most uncertain market, watched with jealous eyes by other traders and government officials, useful and necessary articles, to the amount of over two hundred and sixteen thousand dollars, have been distributed, with but trifling loss, and so near the actual cost, as to leave a surplus of only about one and a half per cent. on the sales, no interest having been paid on the capital employed.

We trust that in this, as in our other undertakings, we may reverently say, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

The work of instruction has grown very much in the past year. As soon as the strife of arms ended, the State of North Carolina, and more especially the western part of it, where many members of the Society of Friends reside, attracted our attention. It was a new field, having been in possession of the Southern power throughout the war, and its occupation seemed appropriate to our Association. The ground was so unbroken, that great obstacles were at first encountered, but conquering these, we have entered upon a wide and most interesting scene of labor there. Schools have now been started at Charlotte, Lincolnton, Salisbury, Greensboro, Hillsboro, Goldsboro, Chapel Hill, Mebanesville, New Garden, Jamestown, Deep River, Oakridge, Morehead Mills, High Point, Thomasville, Bruce's Cross Roads, Danville, Virginia, bordering on North Carolina, and a number of small country places. The whole number of scholars in these schools amounted lately to about 2,500, with some 1,450 in average attendance.



In the Yorktown District, nearly all of our former schools having been opened during the war, on farms belonging to persons involved in the rebellion, operations have been much embarrassed, by the general return of the land to its former owners. Notwithstanding this, schools have been conducted during the past winter at Slabtown, Acreville and Williamsburg, and on the Warren, Indianfield, Cook and Williams Farms, and recently at Fort Magruder, with a total number of scholars on the rolls at once, of 1,400, and an average attendance of about 900. The number of schools in the Washington District has been increased by the addition of two, at Fall's Church and Camp Strong, numbering, with those in the city, about 470 scholars, averaging 320 daily.

The total number taught in the three districts is thus seen to be about 4,370, and the average number at school daily, 2,670. Including two Superintendents and two housekeepers, there were lately 69 persons employed in the teaching corps; 38 in North Carolina, 18 on the Peninsula, and 13 about Washington. Besides these, we have employed 7 colored teachers, to take charge of schools in Maryland, under the auspices of the Baltimore Freedmen's Aid Association, but supported by us. Some of these are undergoing a month's training in the admirable Normal School at Baltimore, and are not yet at work teaching.

We have to acknowledge the valuable assistance rendered to the cause, by the personal dedication to the work of several concerned Friends. Feeling, as we do, the importance of extending to the Freedmen a degree of that guarded religious instruction, which the Society of Friends authorizes and commends in the training of their own children, we cannot but

regret that more of our own members have not entered into this labor.

We earnestly commend this subject to the serious attention of the Association.

"The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few: pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth laborers into His harvest."

Much delay was caused in the starting of our schools the past year, by uncertainty as to the tenure of locations. Until within a few months, it was not known certainly what course would be taken towards those whose lands, abandoned that their owners might take part in the rebellion, had been appropriated by Government to the use and benefit of the freedmen. The Executive policy of returning all such abandoned lands, not excluding those upon which, under government guarantees, freedmen's schools, mission houses, &c., had been built, is now clearly defined. The result is that property must be either rented or bought, in which to conduct the schools, or the schools abandoned. In many cases there is no alternative but to buy ground at least, and if without suitable buildings, either construct them, or remove old houses to the lands so bought. Purchases have been made at Hillsboro, Greensboro and Raleigh, N. C., of land with buildings upon it, which can be used for school purposes, the total cost of which to the Association is \$3,400. Although the season was far advanced when the whole of these schools were in operation, some ten thousand books, chiefly primers and readers, but comprising also arithmetics, geographies, scripture lessons, &c., have been used; besides 300 charts, 1,500 slates, outline maps, and a large number of copy books, pens, pencils, ink, reward cards, numerical

frames, &c. Many hundred bibles and testaments have also been distributed, and on First days the scholars have been taught the truths of Holy Writ, from the Scriptures themselves, or from simple scripture question books.

The good that all these humble schools are doing among the untutored negroes, is beyond estimate. If nearly ten thousand have received direct instruction in them, how will it leaven the whole mass with whom they come in contact. Already seven applications have been received from neighborhoods to which our former scholars had gone, for teachers and books, these neglected spots having tasted the sweets of instruction from grateful recipients of the bounty of our schools. And it is worthy of remark, that the appreciation of education for the freed people appears to be somewhat on the increase among the whites of the South. The opening of a school in a rural district at once renders it easier for the planters to obtain laborers there, the freedmen being averse to leaving towns and cities where their children can go to school, to settle in neighborhoods where there are none. It is very cheering to observe, also, that within a short period, in several instances, planters have applied to the various Freedmen's Associations for teachers to conduct schools upon their plantations, thus evincing an interest in the improvement of the condition of the colored people, and an appreciation of the fact, that an educated is much more valuable than an ignorant class of laborers.

At the time of our last Annual Report, the Rebellion was scarcely at an end; the mingled sounds of rejoicing for the last victory, and of profound grief for the final act of violence committed by the slave

power, had scarcely died away. Until that time, the freedmen had been emancipated only by proclamation; for the power of the government extended over a small part of the slave territory. It remained to be seen whether the freedom of the negro, having been proclaimed as an act of war, would be recognized in time of peace. The problem whether four millions of people, always heretofore restrained of their liberty, forbidden by law to learn even how to read, their simplest wants provided for by others, now suddenly set free, could feed and clothe themselves, take care of their own families, and learn to become good citizens of the body politic, was also still to be solved by experience. It was now our task to aid in giving this question a happy solution. That, in the outset at least, they would be unprepared to battle with life, that they would still need charitable contributions of clothing, shelter, food, medicines, advice, instruction, was evident; consequently, generous donations of money have not ceased to flow into the Treasury, nor failed to find ample use. The first winter of freedom in peace is now past. Although the area which could be reached has been enlarged, the intensity of suffering was not nearly so great as during the war.

In spite of much bitterness of feeling displayed towards the people of color by their former masters, and many cases of harsh treatment, that wonderful hunger for knowledge, which nothing but starvation could have produced, and their pride of independence, have already done much to obviate the need of charity in the way of physical relief. But much else remains to be done. They are without homes, and must be aided to procure them. They are neglected by the medical profession of the South, and are at least as

liable as the whites to disease. But above all, the traditional hostility of that section to their education, debars them from the use of schools. This primary source of ability to provide for their physical wants, and raise themselves in the social scale, must not be denied them. Without instruction they are helpless; give them teachers and books, charts and slates, and in a little while they will be truly free, a self-dependent people, will earn good wages, save money, buy their own food, clothing and advice, and if they are not accorded access to free schools, as taxed citizens, before long they will educate themselves too. One thing we must patiently bear in remembrance, that to instil into millions of minds, even the simplest elements of learning, must needs be the work of time.

Of the present condition of the freed race, their treatment by their late masters, and consequent chances for the future, we can form a tolerably clear idea, from the letters and statements of our teachers and others throughout the South. Manifestly the cases of generous acceptance of the position, and the magnanimous effort to do all in the master's power to benefit his freed slaves, are very rare. Many cases of gross outrages and cruelty, and more of heartless indifference occur. Frequently these homeless, penniless, dependent creatures have been turned adrift, at the end of the working season, to brave the chances of life and death, in the merciless winter, by the men whose fortunes they had built up without reward. There would be little hope for a reconciliation between the races, were it not for the powerful dictates of policy. Interest compels the white man to employ the negro, whether he pays him fairly, or at all, for his labor rests too much upon the maintenance of

national authority, enforcing justice. But while the tempting prize of a cotton crop depends upon the negro's labor, competition for that labor must exist; and as the irritation of defeat, and of compulsory emancipation, wear away with time, we may hope that justice, for its own sake, will tardily assume its sway in the heart of the planter. Especially may we indulge this hope, if the national government accepts the office of guardian to the weak and the oppressed, so long as may be necessary to give to the negro a standing as a free man.

The history of the last five years presents abundant evidence, that the hand of God, and not that of man, has brought about this great liberation.

In His almighty hand we may safely leave its issues, and accepting the great boon itself as an accomplished fact, it is for us quietly to press on in the performance of so much of the instrumentality as devolves upon us. Clouds will inevitably arise at times to darken the marvellous light of Heaven, but let us in simple faith confide in Him whose ways are inscrutable, but who doeth all things for ultimate good.

On behalf of the Board,

SAMUEL R. SHIPLEY, *President.*

JOHN B. GARRETT, *Secretary.*

*Philadelphia, 4 mo. 16th, 1866.*

*To the Association of Friends of Philadelphia and its vicinity, for the Relief of Colored Freedmen.*

THE TREASURER REPORTS:

Balance on hand 4 mo. 17, 1865, . . . . .	\$10,059 15
Contributions from Friends and others in this country, . . . . .	\$34,056 60
Contributions from Friends and others in Great Britain, . . . . .	19,661 47
Total contributions, . . . . .	\$53,718 07
Goods sold, and other returns from Agents, . . . . .	3,331 34
Loan to Store Fund returned, . . . . .	1,000 00
Profit on Store operations, . . . . .	2,665 50
Total Receipts, . . . . .	\$70,774 06

EXPENDITURES.

Salaries and maintenance of teachers, books, furnishing school houses, seeds, and other expenses connected with instruction, literary and industrial, . . . . .	31,404 90
Properties purchased, . . . . .	3,400 00
Dry Goods and Trimmings, . . . . .	12,793 73
Blankets, . . . . .	3,746 23
Shoes, . . . . .	1,484 27
Medical Stores, Wood, &c., . . . . .	1,441 56
Freight, rent, insurance, manufacture of clothing and other incidentals, printing and distributing documents, . . . . .	4,887 83
Special objects by request of donors, . . . . .	90 67
Total Expenditure, . . . . .	\$59,249 19
Leaving a balance on hand of . . . . .	\$11,524 87

PHILA., 4 MONTH 13TH, 1866.

RICH'D CABBURY, *Treasurer.*

Having examined the above account of RICHARD CABBURY, Treasurer, and compared the payments with his vouchers, we find it correct, there being a balance in his hands due the Association of Eleven Thousand, Five Hundred and Twenty-four Dollars and Eighty-seven Cents, (\$11,524.87.)

ANTHONY M. KIMBER,  
CALEB WOOD.

PHILADELPHIA, 4 MONTH 13TH, 1866.